

REMARKS

Claims 45-54 are pending, wherein Claims 45-54 are newly added.

Claims 1-44 have been or remain canceled.

In the present Office Action mailed on November 18, 2005, the Examiner stated that newly submitted claims 35-44 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the examined claims read upon the invention detailed in Figures 3-6, while newly-submitted claims read upon the invention detailed in Figures 11 and 12, which are patentably independent and distinct from the invention of Figure 3.

Based on the following arguments, applicant considers that the claims 45-54 comprising the subject matter of "a pad having an edge not covered by a mask" should not be withdrawn because the subject matter does read in the examined claims.

Applicant notes that under the current examination, in a previous Office Action mailed on Feb. 18, 2005, then pending Claim 14 was examined. *See the last paragraph on page 8 in Office Action mailed on Feb. 18, 2005.* Claim 14 (now canceled) depended on elected Claim 13 and comprised subject matter that "said solder mask provided over said second surface of said BGA substrate being removed from said points of electrical contact provided over the second surface of said BGA substrate by a measurable

amount". . The above-mentioned subject matter can read on Figures 11 and 12, so the subject matter read on Figures 11 and 12 was examined before.

Applicant notes that newly added Claims 45-54 comprise subject matter stating, "a pad having an edge not covered by a mask". Applicant believes that this subject matter also reads on Figures 11 and 12. Since the newly submitted claims are drawn to subject matter contained in Figures 11 and 12, these newly submitted claims are therefore directed to an elected invention.

Reconsideration of the allowance of the newly-submitted claims 45-54 is therefore respectfully requested.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and this is so requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SBA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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